

by assisting school administrators and teachers in improving the learning environment.

By recognizing National School Psychology Week we show our support for the work school psychologists do to help create a healthy, safe and positive learning environment and to address barriers that prevent learning.

I applaud the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) for authoring and bringing this resolution to the floor. I also commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for cosponsoring the bill. I am honored to support this resolution and ask my colleagues to join me in voting "yes."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Mr. EHLERS for his work on this resolution and Mrs. BIGGERT as well for her comments. I thank all the cosponsors for their support and work.

I again urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution designating the week of November 9, 2009, as National School Psychology Week.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 700, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING VICTIMS OF FORT HOOD ATTACK

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 895) honoring the lives of the brave soldiers and civilians of the United States Army who died or were wounded in the tragic attack of November 5, 2009 at Fort Hood, Texas.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 895

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the lives of the brave soldiers and civilians of the United States Army who died or were wounded in the tragic attack of November 5, 2009, at Fort Hood, Texas. The American people share the pain and grief of this tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with the families of those who were so unfortunately taken from them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Less than 24 hours ago our Nation was shocked to learn that a shooting had taken place at Fort Hood, Texas, one of the largest military bases in our country. Over the course of these initial news reports, we were saddened to learn that at least 13 soldiers were killed or have died and more than 30 were wounded, including the alleged assailant and the officer who was instrumental in bringing an end to the shooting.

□ 1145

What was shocking to most Americans is that a fellow member is alleged to have carried out this vicious attack on his comrades in arms. Yesterday, as these soldiers were in the midst of preparing for combat overseas, a fellow soldier opened fire on these unsuspecting patriots and those civilians and soldiers who were supporting them.

While many of those who were there were spared from the flying bullets, a number of these courageous soldiers and civilians were wounded, and they will face months, perhaps even years, recovering from their wounds. The heartache for these individuals and their families will be compounded by the fact that they will face these challenges knowing they were injured in the line of duty by an individual from within their own ranks. In the following days and months to come, these individuals and their families will need both emotional and physical sustenance and encouragement. It is our responsibility to ensure that they and their families have the resources they need to make a full and complete recovery.

Our prayers are with those who have lost a loved one in this senseless killing. These military families are already stressed with the thought of their family member deploying to Afghanistan or Iraq for a year, of the holidays and special moments that they would not share because of this deployment. And now their world has been turned upside down. Those last days prior to deployment when many families often make special plans to spend those few precious moments together have been taken away.

This morning, they will awaken to the realization that time will not bring their family member home to their welcoming arms. These families will

need much love and support in the coming days; and we, as Americans, will be there with them and for them in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, there is an ongoing investigation into this incident, and it is not appropriate for us to speculate on the motivations and why this occurrence happened. The investigation should be allowed to be completed without intervention as quickly as possible so it can bring closure to those who were tragically impacted by this event.

My thoughts and my prayers go out to those who have lost a loved one and to those who have been wounded, but I also want to reach out to all of our military families who are stationed around the world, who each understandably are touched by the heart-breaking events of yesterday at Fort Hood.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely saddened by this occurrence. All of us in this body are extremely saddened by this occurrence.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 895. I appreciate the leadership of Congressman MIKE MCCAUL of Texas, a proven friend of military families.

Yesterday marked a dark and painful chapter in the history of Fort Hood, Texas. The Nation's largest military installation was devastated when the soldiers and civilians of the United States Army were heinously attacked by the least likely of assailants, a murderer who benefited from the American dream of unlimited opportunity, attending medical school at military expense, and a person given trust as a high rank in our military. He cowardly then committed treason.

In the aftermath, we have learned that 13 of our bravest and finest Americans were killed and several dozen more were wounded. This senseless act of horror betrays our respect and dignity for human life. Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with each of the families affected by this great tragedy.

My constituents are shocked and saddened. In discussing today this tragedy with Carl Gooding of WDOG radio of Allendale, South Carolina, I know firsthand the Lowcountry of South Carolina is praying for the Fort Hood families.

Amidst this tragedy, there are reports that many soldiers in the immediate vicinity of the attack provided heroic aid to their fellow soldiers who had been wounded, several of them already wounded themselves. These selfless acts undoubtedly saved the lives of several and mitigated what was already a terrible tragedy. Many have come forward to donate much-needed blood and offer themselves to help at

this needed time. This bravery and determination is a testimony to our servicemen and -women, the new greatest generation, and stands in bold opposition to the horror of yesterday's events.

Military installations are the last place our servicemen and -women should fear for their safety. Over the last few years, we have made great effort to ensure the security of our military personnel, but still there is work to be done.

I know of the great efforts our military police and protective services who are making a difference at bases I represent, Fort Jackson in Columbia, Parris Island Marine Base, the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, and the Beaufort Naval Hospital.

Today, as Fort Hood observes a day of mourning, we also offer our prayers to all those touched by this tragedy, including our soldiers, civilians, military families, and the Central Texas community.

As the son of a World War II Army veteran, as a 31-year Army Reserve and National Guard veteran myself, as the father of four sons serving today in the American military, with a nephew serving in Baghdad, I know military members support each other as family.

America's extended military family across the world deeply cares for our fellow family members at Fort Hood. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 895.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) be permitted to control the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness of the House Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ).

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of those servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in support of our Nation. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the 12 soldiers and one civilian who were killed yesterday at Fort Hood and with the 30 who were wounded. I am very familiar with Fort Hood. Not only is it in Texas, but this is where I went through my basic training many years ago.

At this time, we must not judge. Instead, it is imperative that we understand. We must understand what prompted a psychiatrist who has helped so many of his fellow soldiers in the past to take their lives yesterday. We must realize that no one is above the need for mental health counseling, and we must help to ensure that this is readily available to all.

The Army as a whole is under significant stress in support of the Nation's operations overseas. This stress manifests itself in many ways, and we must

do more to understand those stresses and support the servicemembers and their families for the sacrifices they make on a daily basis.

I join my colleagues in offering my sincere condolences to our brave soldiers and their families at Fort Hood, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Fort Hood, Texas, has a long, long history. It is right in the center of the State of Texas, and many of us from the State of Texas have connections with that institution.

It is named after a Confederate general, John Bell Hood, who was in charge of the 4th Texas during the War Between the States. After the war was over with, it became a military installation for the United States Army, the biggest Army installation in the world. Those from every State, every territory, from all over the U.S., come and serve at Fort Hood, Texas; and it has been that way for a great number of years.

My father, who served in the great World War II when he was an 18-year-old did basic training in Texas and came back home in 1945, was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, to be re-equipped for the invasion of Japan. That, fortunately, never took place. But he met my mom there in Temple, Texas. They got married, and that is why I was born in Temple, Texas, and have a great affection for that institution and all those that have served with the United States Army at that location.

It is now the deployment post for individuals who go overseas to represent the rest of us. They go to Iraq. They go to Afghanistan. They go to Kosovo. They go all over the world. They are being deployed at this time to represent our country and the values that we have. Many of them have served multiple tours of duty, some of them up to four tours of duty in Iraq. But yet they are all volunteers, they continue to serve, and they continue proudly to wear the United States uniform.

Approximately 40,000 people are associated with the base at Fort Hood, Texas. And not only the soldiers, but their families are there. We must remember as Americans, when troops go to war, their families go to war, too; only they stay home. Those Blue Star Moms and those Gold Star Moms, they stay here and they support our troops.

This event that occurred yesterday at Fort Hood, is an attack that was done by one of their own, someone who had been apparently radicalized, who was opposed to the war. He will be held accountable to the law for his actions. Hopefully, he will be tried by the State of Texas for his actions. But what makes this a tragedy, are the 13 that were killed, and the 30 that were wounded.

Yet, as my friend Mr. WILSON has pointed out, the people at the base, civilians and military, came to the rescue to help others, even though it endangered their own lives. And, today, this morning, not far from Fort Hood, Texas, in Temple, Texas, at Scott and White, many of those 30 are still there, receiving treatment because of their injuries; and the whole community and the whole Nation needs to understand the importance of taking care of the survivors and the families who have lost those loved ones.

We owe a great deal to our military. Next week is Veterans Day, where we celebrate the end of the great World War I and honor the veterans that have served since that time. While we celebrate our veterans and honor them next week, we should continue to honor those who continue to serve and are in the military today, including those who have given their lives and those that have been injured because by some act of criminal activity against them.

So our hearts, our prayers, and our thoughts are for them, those brave few, those noble few, that rare breed, that unique breed, the American breed, who volunteer to represent the United States wherever they are assigned, somewhere in the world.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague from Texas (Mr. REYES), a senior member of the Armed Services Committee and the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in expressing our deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of those killed and wounded in yesterday's tragic shooting at Fort Hood. While there are no words that perhaps we can say here today on the floor of the House that will lessen the grief of the entire Army family, we do want them to know that our Nation mourns with them.

As a Congress, we must work to understand why this attack occurred; and we must pledge to do everything within our power to prevent any future tragedies from happening so other families do not know and have to share the pain and suffering that is going on today at Fort Hood. But, for now, I want them to know that they are in our thoughts and in our prayers. The days and months ahead will be difficult, but we will persevere together.

To the families of those who perished, please accept our deepest appreciation on behalf of all Americans for their willingness to volunteer for service to our Nation. You have stepped forward to answer the call of our country, to put yourselves in harm's way to defend us, and we owe all of you a tremendous debt of gratitude.

To our men and women at Fort Hood, military and civilian alike, you are not

alone. Our thoughts, prayers and blessings are with you. We will get through this together.

□ 1200

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked a dark and painful chapter in American history and for the State of Texas. People all across this Nation were devastated when they heard the news that soldiers and civilians of the United States Army at Fort Hood, Texas, were attacked by the least likely of assailants. It wasn't short an act of treason.

I want to first thank my colleague and good friend, JOHN CARTER of Texas, who represents Fort Hood in his district, for introducing this legislation to give all Members of Congress the opportunity to stand here today in support of the brave men and women at Fort Hood and their families in such a time of trial. Fort Hood lies just north of my district, just north of Austin. It's in central Texas. Many of us all across this Nation have constituents who have gone through Fort Hood to train for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have had many of my constituents trained at Fort Hood.

But yesterday was a dark chapter; and in the aftermath, we learned that 13 of our finest Americans were killed, and several dozen more were wounded. This senseless act of horror betrays our respect and deepest dignity for life. Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with each of the families affected by this great tragedy. During this tragedy, there were reports that many soldiers provided heroic aid to their fellow soldiers who had been wounded, several of them already wounded themselves. These selfless acts saved the lives of many, and so many in central Texas have come forward to donate much-needed blood and offer themselves to help in this time of need.

This selfless service and determination is a testament to our servicemen and -women and stands in bold opposition to the horror of yesterday's events. And today as Fort Hood observes a day of mourning, we offer our prayers and support in this hallowed Chamber in the Congress to all those touched by this tragedy, including our soldiers, civilians, military families and the central Texas community.

Mr. Hasan, the suspect responsible for these acts of violence, these senseless acts of violence, was reported to have yelled out, "Allahu Akbar," as he murdered innocents, as he wounded innocents. Translated that means God is great. To me, that's very disturbing. That is not my God. That is not our God. That is not the God of our fathers and Founding Fathers who have served in the military. May our God reach out to the families and the victims. May our God provide comfort in this great time of need. May our God hold them in the palm of his hand.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to my friend

and colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I rise to express my deepest sympathies for the families and loved ones of all affected in the tragedy that occurred at Fort Hood. They are certainly in our thoughts and in our hearts. As someone whose committee works hard to look out for and care for our servicemembers who dedicate themselves to our country, news like this, of course, is devastating.

As the stories unfolded yesterday, I could only think of the fact that we had sent so many of our men and women to the most dangerous places in the world; and here they were, probably in what they might have thought was the safest place in the world.

We also have to think about our mental health providers today as well because we know that we have mental health care professionals who are very professional, providing the most highly demanding, specialized, emotional and invaluable care to our servicemembers; and it's important to emphasize at these rare times that the actions of one individual certainly don't reflect on all those serving in the profession. It would only add to the tragedy if we let this tarnish those working in the very profession that provide so much help to our troops and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, having spoken to so many families, that a tiny percentage serve, and often families don't believe that the American people really understand what they go through. Today in a tragedy like this, we must do our best. We must make certain this does not happen again and that we reach out to the families and let them know we are listening. We will try harder.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

One of the greatest privileges of my lifetime was to represent the soldiers and families of Fort Hood for 14 years in the U.S. Congress. On behalf of all Americans, we rise today to express our deepest respect and heartfelt sorrow to the soldiers and families of Fort Hood. These great Americans who have sacrificed so much in service to country now face a tragedy that one day ago would have seemed unimaginable. In the hours, days and months ahead, I hope the Fort Hood family knows that the thoughts and prayers of the American people are with them.

It is a tragedy beyond words that young Americans who are willing to risk their lives for our country in combat abroad ended up losing their lives here at home. While these soldiers did not die in combat, they surely gave their lives in service to country. And for that, we will always consider them as heroes. The spouses, children, and families of the fallen may not have

worn our Nation's uniform; but they have served our Nation through their deep personal sacrifice. Let us be clear today, we will never, ever forget that sacrifice. We cannot bring back their loved ones, but I hope they will forever feel the collective love, gratitude, and prayers of millions of their fellow Americans.

To the wounded and their loved ones, our Nation's fervent hopes and prayers are with you in these difficult moments. Please know that you are not alone. Mr. Speaker, in the days ahead, Fort Hood will become known to the world as a place of unspeakable tragedy, but I know it is a place of great triumph, a place where service to country isn't an ideal. It is a way of life, a place where the American spirit is alive and well, even amidst this tragedy.

I hope the world will see the Fort Hood I saw as its Representative. When I think of Fort Hood, I think of the 29-year-old Army widow who asked me not long after her husband's death in Iraq, not how I could help her but, rather, how she could help others who had lost their loved ones in combat. When I think of Fort Hood, I think of the young soldier I met at a welcome home ceremony. It was just 3 days before my wife gave birth to our first child. And when I saw him with his wife and his newborn baby, I told him how excited I was, the thought of becoming a father and being there when our son came into the world. Without complaining, he looked at me and said, Sir, I missed the birth of my first child because I was in Iraq, and I missed the birth of my second child while I was deployed to Bosnia. When I think of Fort Hood, I think of the parents I met there this summer who lost their two sons in combat in Iraq just 9 days apart.

How can the Nation measure the depth of that kind of sacrifice? When I think of Fort Hood, I think of soldiers, families and their neighbors in nearby communities who care for each other and are proud to serve and, yes, even sacrifice for our Nation's freedom. Fort Hood is known as "the great place." That's what they call it. That's what it is—past, present and future—and the actions of one deranged person should not and will not change that fact.

But with the support and prayers of the American family, Fort Hood will recover from this terrible tragedy. The servicemen and -women at Fort Hood, their families and the neighboring communities are a very special and unique family. They make Fort Hood what it is, a shining star in our Nation's defense, a star that will burn brightly for many years to come. From this tragedy, just days before Veterans Day, I pray that Americans will be reminded how blessed we are to live in a land where a special few, our servicemen and -women and their families, are willing to give up so much for country.

Let us all rededicate ourselves to honoring our troops, our veterans, and

their families. Let us remember them not just on Veterans Day and Memorial Day or on a day of tragedy but every day. As we ask God's blessings on those whose lives we honor with this resolution, let us remember that we are the land of the free because we are still the home of the brave.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT), a valued member of the Committee on Armed Services here in the House.

Mr. BRIGHT. I would like to thank my colleague. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution, honoring the soldiers who lost their lives at Fort Hood. As someone who represents two military bases, I can only imagine the profound sense of loss the great Fort Hood community must feel today. This is not just a loss for central Texas. This is a loss for our entire country. Military bases are not walled off from their surroundings. They are vital parts of our communities. When I served as mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, the airmen at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base were upstanding citizens who went above and beyond to improve and advance our city. As a Congressman from southeast Alabama, I have seen the brave soldiers at Fort Rucker rush to the aid of nearby towns in the wake of tragedy and crisis. Now it's time for us to show our appreciation to these bases and their families and stand with them as we mourn the tragic and senseless loss at Fort Hood. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who died and also with the ones who are wounded.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), who served on the House Armed Services Committee for 8 years.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman CHET EDWARDS for allowing me this opportunity to speak this morning on this tragic shooting that occurred at Fort Hood, Texas, yesterday. The most important thing that we can do right now is to make ourselves available to the families and friends of those who were killed and wounded. I wish to express my condolences to the families at Fort Hood who lost their loved ones. Our prayers are with you all as you try to make sense of it all.

This tragedy, once again, raises the extreme importance of providing true quality in our mental health care services and the need for thorough mental health assessments not only for our veterans but also for those that are in the service at the present time, for those members notified of deployment as well as those returning from deploy-

ment. This must also be a time to take into consideration the medication needs, the financial difficulties, and the coping mechanisms that our soldiers are having to go through. These also highlight the need for our family and friends and peers to stand up to get their friends help when they need it. The signs of suicide, homicide and extreme behavior are almost always there.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. In the military, of all places, each individual must be aware of what is being said or done by their peers and friends and recognize when those behaviors or statements may not be consistent with a healthy mindset. In the military, these behaviors absolutely must be identified to the unit commander so he can review the servicemember and get the member appropriate help. I believe that we can all learn from this tragic incident to not take things too lightly and for leaders to be proactive in their efforts to ensure the mental health of the troops. Hopefully, we can reach out to help as many as we can.

I will close by expressing my condolences, once again, to the family and friends of those who have been wounded and those who have lost their lives.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to all of the families and friends, to all of those who lost loved ones during the senseless shooting that occurred yesterday at Fort Hood. Nothing can really prepare you for a tragedy like this, especially when the lives of such dedicated young men and women are cut short by unthinkable violence right here on American soil. And one of those young men, Private First Class Michael Pearson, was from a family that lives in my district, Bolingbrook. He served his country with distinction and honor, and his life and sacrifice will be remembered always here in Bolingbrook and across the Nation.

□ 1215

And to his parents and family I offer my deepest thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague, the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who has been a champion as a Speaker of this House on behalf of a better quality of life, educational benefits, and health care for America's veterans, our service men and women, and their families.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks, and I accept

them on behalf of the entire House because we have worked in a bipartisan way on behalf of our men and women in uniform and our veterans. I particularly want to salute Chairman EDWARDS' outstanding leadership in that regard in his position as Chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Subcommittee of Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, words fail when a tragedy of this magnitude comes in such an unexpected way, that someone who had the confidence of the military, within its own walls, would perpetrate such a tragedy on people whose lives are dedicated to protecting the American people. It was an unspeakable tragedy, of course, for the families, soldiers, civilians, and support staff on the base at Fort Hood. But it was also a wound to our country.

Our brave men and women in uniform train day in and day out to preserve our security. They should never have to face or fear the forces of violence here at home.

At Fort Hood yesterday, ordinary citizens performed extraordinary acts when they were called upon. They were heroes. In the face of great cowardice on behalf of the perpetrator, Americans demonstrated great bravery from stopping the gunman from causing more loss of life to coming to the aid of those who were wounded and protecting the lives of others.

The entire Nation and this Congress stands with the members of the military every day. I hope it is a comfort to the families affected by this, and everyone in America has been affected by this, but those who have lost their loved ones and the families of those who are seriously wounded and those who have been shaken at Fort Hood, that our entire country mourns the losses of those who were killed and are praying for them at this very, very sad time.

I said to Mr. CARTER, Congressman CARTER, who represents Fort Hood, and Mr. EDWARDS, who had represented Fort Hood and many of his constituents worked at Fort Hood, that whatever this Congress can do to ease the pain, to help the recovery, we stand ready to do. And we do that on both sides of the aisle.

I thank you, Mr. EDWARDS, for the opportunity to extend my condolences and that of the Congress to the families affected.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) such time as he may consume.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in honoring the lives of the brave soldiers and civilians who were killed or wounded in the tragic attack at Fort Hood yesterday.

I know the country was riveted by the news, watching their TVs yesterday, trying to understand, trying to comprehend the tragedy that we saw.

We expect much of the men and women in our military and their families. We never expect to have violence

appear on their front steps. I was listening to General Cone yesterday as he was trying to brief the Nation on the tragedy. One of the questions was, Well, aren't the military armed?

And he said, This is our home. We do not carry weapons in our home.

So they were unprepared to defend themselves against a dastardly attack from the inside from someone that they never would have thought would attack them, would come at them when they were least prepared.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues to express my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones, to the survivors, the Fort Hood family, and the entire United States Army. Also, I would like to thank those first responders, all those in the cities surrounding Fort Hood, the civilians that came to their aid and, as General Cone said, have offered so much to be of assistance. I think there are many that we need to remember in our prayers this day, and I thank all those for all that they have given.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one can't help but feel grief and anger and desperation in all of what went on at Fort Hood.

But the larger issue here, and I think the one we must not lose sight of, is what Dr. Hasan was dealing with was posttraumatic stress disorder. I sat for 2 years at the Long Beach Naval Station and listened to these stories from young men and women coming back from Vietnam day after day after day, and I can tell you the impact is huge.

The biggest loss from this event will be if we do not deal with the fact that stigma about going to see mental health professionals prevents many of our people from getting the help they need.

I had dinner the other night with the Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Chiarelli, who has made it his goal to deal with posttraumatic stress disorder for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

This issue, because we sort of say, well, you're supposed to be tough and pull yourself together and never admit you've got a problem, is with all kinds of people in the military. A military psychiatrist is as vulnerable to it as is a grunt out on the field dealing with war at every corner. And as we talk about this today, I don't want people to draw conclusions and make decisions about why this happened and all the rest. It's human breakdown. It happens to people all the time in the military. When you put people in the kind of stress that we put those people in and send them back again and again and again, leave their families, see the awful things of it, you cannot expect everybody to be able to keep it together. We need to be sympathetic and put the money up for the help that these people need.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am stunned and saddened by the tragic events that occurred yesterday at Fort Hood, and I want to express my deepest sympathies to the families and the friends of those who were harmed in this horrific and senseless act that defies explanation.

I have the privilege of representing Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, and the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia, and I know that the many servicemen and -women there are mourning the loss of their friends and colleagues in Texas.

The units and the families at Fort Hood, home of the 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 3rd Corps Headquarters, have long served as models of honor and selfless service to our country. We thank them today for their noble service and we grieve with them over their tremendous loss.

As the Fort Hood community struggles to find answers in the wake of this tragedy, I pledge the continued prayers and support of all the people in Georgia's 2nd District and, indeed, all of our servicemen and -women and military families who are stationed in bases throughout Georgia.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who is the vice chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs in the House.

Mr. FARR. I thank my Chair, CHET EDWARDS, for yielding.

I rise today on the eve of Veterans Day recess in support of the condolence resolution. I fought all of my political career trying to get State, local, and Federal governments, including the Department of Defense, to seriously take the invisible wounds of war into consideration. This tragic loss of innocent lives to mental breakdowns is not new, so why should it be so hard to treat this illness?

As we have to pay condolences in this resolution, let's not forget that the other House has on hold S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Care Services Act of 2009. Until Congress is willing to support the funding of mental health, we will not be able to fully assure safety for all in all our communities, be they civilian or military.

I urge we support one with our hearts and the other with our minds in our vote.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I'd just like to say, when things like this happen, you have to ask the question, many ask the question, why? Why did this have to happen? Why such

a senseless act of violence that killed 13 people and wounded 30? Why did they have to die, our men and women serving in uniform? And there will be an investigation into why, what was the motivation of Mr. Hasan, but that's for a later day.

Today we honor these fallen heroes. And when I think about them, I think about the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters who have lost their loved ones both in Iraq and Afghanistan. I think the hardest thing we have to do as Members of Congress is to comfort these families who have lost their loved ones and try to make some sense out of it. They know that they have died for a just and noble cause. And, as Mr. EDWARDS knows, my good friend and colleague from Texas who knows so many people from the State of Texas that have gone through this training facility, one of the greatest in the world, the largest military installation in the United States, they are brave.

I know there are many families at home today, many families watching the television, some maybe watching this on C-SPAN who are in tears, whose hearts are broken, who know that they can't get back what they lost. But to those families, know that we in the Congress hear their tears. We hear their cries. This resolution stands in strong support of them. We emotionally stand behind them, that we have passed legislation for both the veterans and active-duty servicemen, in addition to posttraumatic disorder.

There are many issues regarding our veterans and our active-duty men and women. We are addressing those in this Congress. We are taking care of them. In my view, our most solemn obligation under the Constitution is for the Congress to not only take care of our veterans returning home but to fully support our active men and women serving both in the United States and abroad.

With that, let me end by saying God bless them and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened about the tragic incident that occurred yesterday at the Army base in Fort Hood, Texas, that has taken the lives of 12 brave American soldiers, 1 civilian, and wounded 30 more.

My condolences and support go to the families of the fallen and the wounded. Our service members and their families make enormous sacrifices for the sake of freedom in this country and we owe them a special debt of gratitude. During this difficult time my thoughts and prayers go out to each of them.

Fort Hood represents a crucial post for the U.S. Military and the fact that this tragedy has taken place in my home state of Texas just makes my lament even stronger.

I am hopeful the thorough investigation of the incident that the federal government has already announced will clarify what has happened and will bring justice.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment.

The Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment was formed in 1990 to fill the void left when the Department of Defense determined that it was no longer able to perform full military burial honors for veterans of the Armed Forces. The Memorial Services Detachment is comprised of about 80 veterans, with an average age of 75, from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. These selfless veterans volunteer their time, on rotating shifts throughout the week, to ensure the traditional military honors of the 3-volley salute and the playing of "Taps" are provided to every veteran buried at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Since 1990 the Memorial Services Detachment has performed services for over 25,000 deceased veterans.

The veterans of the Memorial Services Detachment have touched the lives of countless families and friends by their dedicated service under the simple motto of "Veterans Serving Veterans." They are a lasting reminder of what is best about our country and about those that have served our Nation in its defense.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my shock and sadness in the wake of yesterday's tragedy at Fort Hood.

This type of senseless violence is tragic in any circumstance, but it is especially painful to have it strike at our men and women serving in uniform, who sacrifice so much for their country.

It is crucial that we work to protect not only our forces deployed overseas from road-side bombs or insurgent attacks, but also the safety of those who are serving at home on bases around the nation.

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Fort Hood community, and especially the families, friends and colleagues of those killed and wounded in this tragedy.

Mr. NEIL ABERCROMBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 895, which honors the lives of the soldiers and civilians wounded or killed in the horrific tragedy at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009. As chairman of the Air and Land Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, I am profoundly saddened by the loss of life at Fort Hood. I extend my condolences to the injured and the families of those who were killed.

The most appropriate course for the Air Land Subcommittee, however, is to continue to provide the most effective force protection possible for our military personnel—the proper vehicles, the best counter-improvised explosive device capability, the proper body armor and helmets, and best weapons.

And of course, I will continue to work with Chairwoman DAVIS and Ranking Member WILSON to support their activities of the Military Personnel Subcommittee to ensure that our men and women in uniform are provided the proper health care and are fully prepared for their overseas assignments.

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 895, which honors the lives of the soldiers and civilians wounded or killed in the horrific tragedy at Fort Hood, Texas on November 5, 2009. NEIL ABERCROMBIE and I, as chairman and ranking member of the Air and Land Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee are profoundly saddened by the loss of life at Fort Hood. We extend our condolences to the injured and the families of those who were killed.

The most appropriate course for us, however, is to continue to provide the most effective force protection possible for our military personnel—the proper vehicles, the best counter-improvised explosive device capability, the proper body armor and helmets, and best weapons.

And of course, we will continue to work with Chairwoman DAVIS and Ranking Member WILSON to support their activities of the Military Personnel Subcommittee to ensure that our men and women in uniform are provided the proper health care and are fully prepared for their overseas assignments.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Fort Hood is the largest active duty armored post in the United States, and is the only post in the United States that is capable of supporting two full armored divisions and covers 339 square miles. Home to about 52,000 troops as of earlier this year, the sprawling base is located halfway between Austin and Waco, Texas.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic shooting that took the lives of 13 soldiers and wounded 31 others. This is one of the worst soldier-on-soldier violence in U.S. history. It is a great misfortune that our nation has lost 13 brave soldiers who have dedicated their lives to serving our country.

The gunfire broke out around 1:30 p.m. at the Soldier Readiness Center, where soldiers who are about to be deployed or who are returning undergo medical screening. Nearby, some soldiers were readying to head into a graduation ceremony for troops and families who had recently earned degrees. The suspected shooter, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, was shot four times and authorities believed they had killed him, only to discover later that he had survived. Military officials are starting to piece together what may have pushed this Army psychiatrist trained to help soldiers in distress, turn on his comrades in a shooting rampage.

I want to commend the soldiers at Fort Hood for their valiant and selfless acts of bravery. Soldiers rushed to treat their injured colleagues by ripping their uniforms into makeshift bandages. The top commander at Fort Hood is crediting a civilian police officer, Sgt. Kimberly Munley, for stopping the shooting. Fort Hood police Sgt. Kimberly Munley and her partner responded within 3 minutes of reported gunfire Thursday afternoon. Munley shot the gunman four times despite being shot herself.

Another story of heroism is that of 19-year-old Amber Bahr. The nutritionist put a tourniquet on a wounded soldier and carried him out to medical care. And only after she had taken care of others did she realize she had been shot. Both women heroically intervened despite being shot.

I would like to express my deepest sympathies for the loss of these 13 soldiers. My thoughts and prayers go out to their families during their time of bereavement. It is unacceptable that soldiers should fear attacks on American soil. I want the military and their families to always be protected as they are the backbone of American society. It is not only our soldiers who make sacrifices to protect our great Nation, but their families as well. I am deeply saddened and troubled by the shootings at Fort Hood, especially because soldiers and their families from my own district are there.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the armed service members whose lives were taken from us yesterday at Fort Hood.

I am deeply saddened over the unspeakable violence that has shattered the lives of brave and honorable soldiers at Fort Hood. This senseless shooting will no doubt be met with the justice and goodness of America, and I stand ready to support the Fort Hood family in any way possible.

The fallen and wounded soldiers represent the best of America. In the coming days and weeks, we will learn about their dreams, love of country, and acts of bravery that will engrave their honorable legacy in service of our country. They will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with the victims and their loved ones. My thoughts and prayers remain with them.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the families and friends of the soldiers and civilians who were killed in yesterday's attack on our Army military base in Fort Hood, Texas.

The senseless and cowardly act by one has inflicted a terrible wound in our military family. But I want the Ft. Hood family to know that we stand with them today and offer them all of our love and support.

We in Texas, in the Nation and around the world grieve and pray for the families of the 13 lives who were taken so violently. We pray for the swift and full recovery of the more than 30 wounded who are holding on to life.

The sacrifices our troops make are already so great. It is particularly tragic that after surviving the dangers of combat, they lost their lives back home where they should have been safe. Today and every day we stand with them as they stand for us, as they stand always and forever for our country.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 895.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 210) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 210

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday,